

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes**  
**February 9, 2016**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Small Assembly Room**  
**City/County Building**  
**Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met February 9, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Kathryn Baldwin presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Jeff Branham	City of Knoxville, <i>for Jim Hagerman</i>
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Deanna Flinchum	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA, <i>for Gary Holiway</i>
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jack Qualls	TDOT, Region 1
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
<b>*voting members</b>	

**1. Motion to Approve January 12, 2016 Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of January 12, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the January 12, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution to Request the Governor and the Tennessee General Assembly seek funding solutions to our States Transportation Needs**

**Item Summary:** At the request of the Executive Board the TPO staff was asked to prepare a Resolution and general list of transportation needs in support of increased transportation funding.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch noted at the December 2015 Executive Board meeting TDOT Commissioner John Schroer, along with stating his support of a Resolution, requested that the magnitude of the transportation needs/projects in our region be identified as part of this initiative. Staff have prepared a Resolution which includes 2 lists generated by TDOT and provided by the Commissioner; “Current Backlog Projects List” and “New Projects List”, both for the Knoxville Regional TPO planning area and summarized by staff, a list generated by staff entitled “Other Major Project Needs on State Routes” that was approved by the Executive Board and submitted to TDOT in January of 2015, as well as a summary of ongoing operating and capital needs in our region for public transportation and multimodal programs.

Mr. Welch further noted the Resolution identifies priority projects only and is not intended to be a complete list of regional projects. Cindy Pionke requested that the I-75 Interchange at Emory Road (SR- 131) project be added to the “Other Major Project Needs on State Routes” list, briefly reviewing the reasoning behind her request to include this as a priority project.

**A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Gerald Green to amend the “Other Major Projects on State Routes” list by adding the I-75 Interchange at Emory Road (SR- 131) project. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**A Motion was made by Andrew Sonner and seconded by Pat Phillips to recommend adoption of a Resolution to request the Governor and the Tennessee General Assembly seek funding solutions to our States Transportation Needs. The Motion carried unanimously.**

### **3. Discussion of Surface Transportation Program Funds and Future Allocations**

**Item Summary:** Staff will discuss the efforts to obtain more timely information on the balance of local STP funded projects. Monitoring the funding obligations for each project as well as the TPO fund balance in a timelier manner is important.

**Discussion:** Mike Conger noted he was now managing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He began by assessing where we stood in terms of our local federal STP fund balance, what dollars are currently unobligated and what is programmed out for the remainder of the current FY 2014-2017 TIP. He noted this information will also be useful for the development of the updated FY 2017-2020 TIP which is required this year as part of the regular 3 year TIP update cycle undertaken statewide by all MPOs and TDOT. He also noted that the TPO staff needs to have knowledge of an accurate and current balance of unobligated STP funds in order to respond to requests for funding of additional projects or cost increases of existing projects so that fiscal constraint of the TIP is maintained. Mr. Conger noted that although TDOT provides staff with an annual listing of the obligations made for each project, getting this information annually does not allow staff to accurately denote where we are in terms of fund balances throughout the year.

### **4. FY 2016/17 TPO Work Program Requests**

**Item Summary:** The TPO is required to submit an updated and adopted FY 2017 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) to TDOT by August of 2016. Staff is requesting identification of any planning studies that the TPO should undertake or financially support starting after October 2016.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch noted it is time to review the FY 2016-2017 TPWP developed and adopted last year and amend/update it as necessary stating this Program is necessary for TDOT to obligate planning dollars to the MPO’s/TPO’s. He asked member jurisdictions to contact staff with any planning studies noting there would be a 20% match for any studies where consultants are needed. Mr. Welch then noted staff will be updating some language in the Work Program pursuant to the new federal legislation, FAST Act, and that a Draft Work Program update will need to be forwarded to TDOT in early March.

### **5. Other Business**

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- East Tennessee Quality Growth is hosting a conference “Plain Talk 2016 - Connecting Competitive Communities” which will be held on April 28, 2016 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Hilton Hotel - Airport, Alcoa, TN. For more information contact Julie Graham at

- [julie.graham@etqualitygrowth.org](mailto:julie.graham@etqualitygrowth.org) or visit their website at <http://etqualitygrowth.org/newsite/plaintalk2016conference/>
- Jeff Welch noted there were approximately 30 bills of various scale related to transportation revenue currently before the legislature. There are some cap bills that could potentially address the way gas taxes are collected and noted there is one not yet introduced but rumored to convert the per gallon unit tax to a percentage of sales tax on fuel, raising and falling with price of fuel but with a cap. This bill also gives local governments (through referendum) an opportunity to place an additional local gasoline or sales tax on fuel specifically for transportation infrastructure and improvements. House bill HS1650 prohibits the use of gas tax for anything not directly related to transportation construction within the ROW way of a road. It had been delayed prior to being rolled 2 weeks ago and it appears it may be delayed again for another 2 weeks and amended to just state that the bill would prohibit expenditures of state collected gasoline tax on anything related to bicycles or bicycle facilities, including state matches. It was noted that this would prohibit the use of state collected gasoline tax dollars for bike lanes on road projects.
  - Jack Qualls noted a general Call for Projects for CMAQ projects is opening up and encouraged member jurisdictions to explore applying for those funds. He also noted they received 28 applications totaling \$20 million for the recently closed Call for Projects for PM2.5 projects. They had \$14 million to award and those funds will be awarded based on a cost-benefit analysis of each application. Alan Jones will be moving forward with that next step with the applicants.
  - Jeff Welch noted Alan Jones will be presenting at the March Technical Committee meeting on a Climate Change Resiliency Study that TDOT completed last July.
  - Cindy Pionke announced that there will be an Institute of Transportation Engineers webinar next Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:30 pm EST with Jeff Hammond, P.E., RPM Transportation Consultants, Lilianna Burbano, Knox County Health Department's Safe Routes to School Partnership Coordinator and herself as instructors. The topic is "Methods for Prioritizing Pedestrian Improvements for School Walks". Visit [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org) to register. It will also be taped for viewing at a later date. There is a cost for the webinar.

## 6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 7. Adjournment

**A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Pat Phillips to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.**